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Terri Sasser  
2004-2005 President

## Message from the President

*Terri Sasser, MPHA President*

Welcome to the New Year! The holidays are behind us, and we can now focus on paying off those bills and keeping our New Year's resolutions. If you're like most people, at least one of your resolutions involves taking care of your health. Your resolution may be to lose 10 or 20 pounds, start an exercise plan, eat more healthfully, or stop smoking.

Whatever your resolution, I encourage you all to be supportive of each other's resolutions this year. Our theme of "Stepping Into A Healthy Future" begins now, with the little things we do each day to make ourselves more healthy, to increase not only our life span but the number of quality years we can expect.

My New Year's Resolution is to make 2005 a healthy and happy year. Care to join me?

**JOIN MPHA NOW!  
GET A CHANCE TO WIN FREE  
REGISTRATION TO THE ANNUAL  
MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!**

## 2005 Annual Meeting Sept. 21-23 "Stepping Into A Healthy Future"

It's not too early to make your reservation to attend the 2005 Annual Meeting. To make your reservations, call 1-800-946-2442, and identify yourself with the Public Health meeting. Room rates for the conference are \$75 for a single/double room plus 9% tax. Make your plans to join us now!

## Exec Committee Proposes Four Changes to MPHA By-Laws

*Larry Rouse, Resolutions Chair*

The MPHA Executive Committee met in conjunction with the planning meeting February 2 and endorsed four proposed changes to the MPHA By-Laws. The proposed changes are

1. To increase dues structure for all levels of membership;
2. To give the Executive Committee the authority to hire an Executive Director for MPHA;
3. To create an MPHA Outstanding Member Award to be given annually; and
4. To assign the parliamentary duties to the President-Elect.

No substantive changes have been made to the Constitution and By-Laws for several years. The Executive Committee believes these changes will help streamline some things, as in the case of the parliamentary authority change, and bring some recognition to people who serve the Association well, with the new MPHA Outstanding Member Award.

The exact language of each of these proposed changes is included below, with the changes marked in bold.

### Article II. Dues

Dues for active membership shall be **\$18** annually, retired membership **\$9** annually, and student membership **\$7** annually. A majority of the membership voting shall be required for approval of a change in annual dues.

Dues for Sustaining Memberships shall be at least **\$150** annually, with corporate sustaining memberships limited to **four** individual representatives per **\$150** dues.

## Article V. Executive Committee

...It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to supervise all finances of the Association and demand, review, and approve an annual audit of accounts.

**The Executive Committee shall have the authority to hire an Executive Director (part time or full time) and to negotiate payment for the positions as deemed appropriate. The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director will be determined by the Executive Committee.**

## Article IX. Awards

The Association recognizes the presentation of the following awards:

1. The Prestige Awards
  - A. The Felix J. Underwood Award
  - B. The Alton B. Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award
  - C. The Jon “Vic” Bailey Award
  - D. The MPHA Outstanding Member Award**

## Article XI. Parliamentarian and Parliamentary Authority

**The President-Elect of the Association shall serve as the parliamentarian** and shall serve as the Association’s authority on parliamentary procedure.

We’ll discuss these changes in more detail in future newsletters. Please send any questions you may have regarding these changes to Larry Rouse, [larry.rouse@msdh.state.ms.us](mailto:larry.rouse@msdh.state.ms.us).

## FYI

*Terri Sasser, MPHA President*

**State Health Officer Dr. Brian Amy** has once again given his support to the Association and to the Conference.

During a February meeting with Dr. Amy and other agency leadership, they assured me that they recognize and appreciate the value of the training provided through the annual meeting, and will continue to provide MDH employees the opportunity to participate. As always, we most sincerely appreciate their support and look forward to a long and productive working relationship with the Mississippi Department of Health.

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**On a more somber note**, please be sure to pass along any information about the passing of former MPHA or public health workers to Larry Rouse for recognition at the Annual Meeting.

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**Public Health Week** is the first week of April. This year, MPHA is working with the University of Southern Mississippi Community Health Center to sponsor health education and training activities. APHA Delegate Helen Moss is spearheading those efforts with USM, and we’ll have more information about what transpired in the next newsletter.

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The 2005 Conference will feature an **Awards Luncheon** on Thursday to recognize the section award winners and the “Big Three” winners. To honor these people, we’ll include as many pictures as possible. So, when you’re nominating someone for an award, think pictures. Send along a digital picture of everyone you nominate – more for the Big Three – and we’ll use them at the Banquet.

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**Membership applications** are available on the MPHA website. If you haven’t joined, please join today. We’re working to make MPHA more than just an annual conference, and we need your support to achieve that goal. The web address is [www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha).

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On a personal note, I’ve accepted a position with the University of Southern Mississippi, and my work there starts April 1. Though I’m leaving the Department of Health, I’m definitely not leaving public health. My work as MPHA President is far from over, and I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference in September!